

THE TRIALS AND CONDEMNATION, OF

Five Notorious Jesuits, Popish-Priests and Traytors.

VIZ. { *Thomas white, alias whitebread:*
 { *William Harcourt, alias Harrison.*
 { *John Fenwick.*
 { *John Gavern, alia Gawen.*
 { *Anthony Turner.*

AND ALSO

Of Mr. *Richard Langhorn*, Counsellor at Law :

Who were allound Guilty of High-Treason.

For conspiring to Murder the King, Subvert the Government,
Root out the Protestant Religion, and establish Popery, &c.

On a fair Tryal, at a Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, holden at the Sessions-
House in the Old-Baily, on the 13th and 14th of this instant June 1679.

With an Account of several Petters and Commissions, Sealed with the Broad Seal of Rome;
some of which were produced in Court.

ON Friday the 13th of this instant June, 1679. by vertue of a Commission and Order from his Majesty were tryed at the Sessions House in the Old-Baily (a Court being called for that purpose) these Prisoners following, viz. *Thomas white, alias whitebread, John Fenwick, William Harcourt, alias Harrison, John Gavern, alias Gawen, Anthony Turner, James Corker*, who presenting a Petition, alledging that he had not his Witnesses ready, was put off till the next day, and the Court proceeded only with the other Five; their Tryals was very tedious, lasting from before nine a Clock in the Morning, to seven or eight in the Evening, and on the Saturday following, Mr. *Richard Langhorne* and Sir *George Wakeman* was brought to the Bar: The Witnesses on the Kings behalf that swore against them, and proved the Articles, were Mr. *William Bedlow*, Mr. *Tyrus Oats*, Mr. *Miles Praunce*, Mr. *Dugdale*, and Mr. *Chitty*; the latter of these, upon the death of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, came down into the Country to Mr. *Dugdale*, who was then in *Staffordshire*; where the news of the said Murder flying abroad, he was asked if he knew not of it, whose reply was, that he did not; whereupon the Maid of the House told him, that Mr. *Dugdale* had received Letters to that purpose from Father *Harcourt* in London, the which Letters bore date before the Body of Sir *Edmund* was found, by means of which intelligence he came acquainted with Mr. *Dugdale*, the Witness against the now Prisoners, having formerly been conversant with some of them in their Grand and Hellish Design: The reason, as it was then related, of the killing Sir *Edmund* was, that he was a great hindrance to their Proceedings in the Catholick Cause, and that the next they were design'd upon was his Majesty, whom Heaven still surrounds with its Celestial Guards, and saves from Popish Rage.

They were all five charged in one Indictment specially drawn for High-Treason, and aggravated with all the most Horrid Circumstances imaginable. First, that they conspired to kill and destroy his Sacred Majesty; and this declared in a threefold Overt act, by hiring *Grove* and *Pickering*, the first for fifteen hundred pounds, the second for thirty thousand Maces to shoot or stab him, by hiring four *Irish* Ruffians to murder his Majesty at *Windsor*, by bribing *wake-man* for fifteen thousand pounds to poison him. Secondly, To subvert the Government, extirpate the Protestant Religion, and introduce Popery, &c. Their Jury were substantial Gentlemen, and they made peremptory Challenges to all that had been on the Tryals of *Coleman*, or any others concerned in this Plot.

Old Father *Whitebread* and *Fenwick* on their Arraignment insisted, that they had formerly been brought to Tryal, and ought not to be twice put in jeopardy of their Lives for the same Fact: But this vain pretence was refuted, by shewing, that though they were once called to the Bar, yet the Jury was never charged with them, and consequently they were never in any such jeopardy; and besides, here was much new matter in their Indictment, nor had they any Record to shew that they were so formerly Arraigned; with which seeming to be satisfied, they (with the rest) pleaded not Guilty.

As to their Trayterous Design of Murthering the King, it was proved upon four of them, that at a General Consult of Jesuits 24th April, 1678. they signed a Resolution to that purpose, that *Grove* and *Pickering* were entertained to kill the King, and what Reward they were to have: That four *Irish* men were to do the same villanous act at *Windsor*, and that fourscore pounds were allotted them for that service, and some small Addition made by *Coleman* for Expedition: That *Whitebread* and *Harcourt* were particularly and principally concerned in these Transactions, with several other Intrigues too tedious here to be specified.

It was further proved, that *Gavern* had been appointed to manage Affairs in and about *Staffordshire*, and one of the Evidence (who had not before appeared against others, nor was acquainted formerly with Dr. *Oates*, or Mr. *Bedloe*, so that his Testimony was wholly new, which he very modestly and judiciously delivered) proved that the said Prisoner had held Consultations in the Country for murthering the King, and subverting the Government, &c. which was likewise confirmed by another; so that upon the whole matter, there were four Witnesses against one of the Prisoners, three against another, and against all of them to two each Crime, being all of the same nature and horrid intention of destroying the King, and subverting the Government.

There was likewise a Letter produced, and proved by a very worthy Gentleman to have been taken amongst *Harcourt's* Papers, that purported to be a Summons to a Jesuit to appear at the said Consult or Congregation of that Society, on the 24th of April; in which were Directions to this effect, *That they should not come up before the day, nor appear much abroad in Town, for fear of a discovery of the Design, which its own nature required secrecy*: This Letter the said *Harcourt* owned to have been written by a Friend of his, but would have avoided the true meaning thereof with a forced Interpretation, that such Design intaded nothing but chusing an Officer of their Brotherhood: But the words could not with any tolerable sense be capable of such Construction; and therefore after all the fair Glosses they had put upon it, the same was referred to the consideration of the Jury.

The Prisoners made a great deal of stir, and had procured divers perjurors from *St. Omers*, all Roman Catholics, and most of them young Popish Students there, to invalidate the evidence; of one of the Principal Evidences; But as they did not well agree in the Tale, but appeared to have been brought hither meerly to serve the Prisoners, so the same was utterly confuted by Corroborating Evidence for the King. For whereas those young Sophisters (ready enough to assert any thing that their Superiours would suggest or have them to do) maintained that Mr. *Oates* was at *St. Omers* all along throughout April and May 1678. and so could not be at the Consult on the 24th of April. He on the other side produced several Substantial Credible Witnesses that saw him then in and about London, and particularly one Gentleman Swore, that on the first Monday in that May he Dined with him: Nay one that was himself a Papist, and supposed a Priest, Swore that he then saw him at *Arundel House*. Nay were they more lucky in several other of their Allegations, which occasioned sometimes great Shouts from the people, to see how industriously, and yet how vainly they went about to justify themselves with pretences equally foolish and false.

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TRIALS

ACL 152



On

29 JUN 1973

On Saturday, being the fourteenth of this Instant June, 1679.

SIR George Wakeman, and Mr. Richard Langborn were brought to the Bar; where, after some Examination, Sir George (as it was then ordered) with three others, viz. James Corker, William Marshall, and William Rumley were put off till the next Sessions, but Mr. Langborn proceeded to his Tryal; after his Indictment was read, and the Witnesses were called, the first Evidence that came against him was Mr. Praunce, but he spoke only by suppositions, and could not swear positively, but by Circumstance thus, That he heard one Mr. Messenger, a Life-guard-man, say, That he was bribed at no less rate than a thousand pounds to murder his most Sacred Majesty; but the Prisoner denied it, or that he ever had any such intention, the which the Witness not being able to prove the Court looked upon it as no certain ground.

The next that was called to Witness against the Prisoner was Mr. Dugdale, who likewise could say little or nothing concerning the Prisoner, but by Circumstances about Pickering and Grove already Executed, whom the Prisoner alledged did no ways concern him.

Then Mr. Oates stood up who made Oath in Court, *That he, in the Month of April 77, returning from Spain, did having some business to negotiate at St. Omers, in the Kingdom of France, met with Mr. Langhorn's two Sons there, who desired him, if he was going for England, to carry a Letter to their Father, the which he accordingly did; arriving at London he went to Langhorn's house, and there most carefully delivered it, where falling into some discourse, the now Prisoner desired him to go with him to his Chamber in the Temple, where, after some Conference, he told him, That he did expect in short time to prefer his two Sons here in England; and the next time the Witness had the opportunity of seeing the Prisoner, he going to dispatch two Letters to St. Omers, one directed to the French King's Confessor, and the other to Aderm, the Contents were to intreat them to procure all the Assistance that they could for the better carrying on the Design now on foot. And growing more familiar in the way of discourse he told him, That he expected Foreign assistance, and how he feared not to facilitate all difficulties, and that the Prisoner at the same time was dispatching Letters to St. Omers to give the Conspirators there an Account how Affairs went in England, and to desire them to be ready with their Assistance.*

Upon which Attanture the Prisoner desired the Court to ask Mr. Oates whether ever he was a Minister, or took Orders in England before he went first for Spain, to which he answered he was, and that his Benefice was in a Parish in the County of Sussex, and that he taught there in the year 1676 or 1677, in which the Court was satisfied. Another Objection was likewise imposed, That it was no just nor lawful Evidence that was bribed, to which Objection Mr. Bedlow and Mr. Oates replied, That it was false, for they had been out of Pocket at least 600 or 700 l a man, upon which the Court answered, That there was a Proclamation set forth by his Majesty's Order for the discovery and apprehending of any person concerned in the barbarous murder of Sir Edmund-bury Godfrey, upon the discovery made there was 500 l Reward, the which could be accounted no bribe but legal, by reason that it was his Majesty's pleasure.

The next enquiry was, whether or no, Mr. *Oates* and Mr. *Bedlow* had as yet received their Free Pardons? To which he was Answered, they had two, under the Great Seal of *England*.

The next who gave in his Evidence, was Mr. *Bedlow*, he there Attested, that on a certain day, he coming along with Mr. *Coleman* to Mr. *Langborns* Chamber, there he saw two Letters, sent from Mr. *Harcourt*; to give him to understand, that all things were in a Readiness, but that they wanted mony, the which Letters were Registered in a Book, the which was kept for that purpose by the Prisoner; wherein all the Proceedings of Affairs were carefully Stated, the which Letters were Sealed and sent away with all speed; and likewise at another time, the Testator asked the now Prisoner, whether he had as yet received any Commissions from *Rome*, who replied he had, shewing him several that lay loose upon his Desk; he declared, that he saw one, the which nominated *John Lord Bellasis* General, and another that the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder* was to be Chancellor, the Lord *Stafford* Treasurer, with several other Commissions, and Grants from the See of *Rome*, amounting to ten in number, whereof five were for the Military Affairs, and five for the Civil, at which time the Testator asked him for his Commission, to whom the now Prisoner replied, he must request that of the Lord *Bellase*, who was Authorised General by the Pope, and that he further told him, that he himself had received Orders to be Judge Advocate.

And likewise, the said Attestator did produce in Court a Writing, under the great Seal of *Rome*, upon which the Honourable Court demanded of Mr. *Oates*, whether he knew it or not, he affirmed it was the same; and Mr. *Bedlow* farther informed them, that it was the same wherewith the Commissions were Sealed. After a long Tryal, which held from 8 in the morning, till 5 or 6 at night, the Jury went out and after some debate, the Kings Evidence proving it so plain against the Prisoner; the Jury brought him in Guilty of High Treason; whereupon the other five being brought to the Bar, the Court proceeded to Sentence, which was as followeth,

That they should be carried back to the place from whence they came, and from thence to be drawn upon a Hurdle to the place of Execution, and there to be hang'd by the Neck till they were half dead, their Members to be cut off whilst alive, their Bowels to be burn'd, and their Quarters to be disposed of as his Majesty pleased.

